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The VEGETABLE SITUATION

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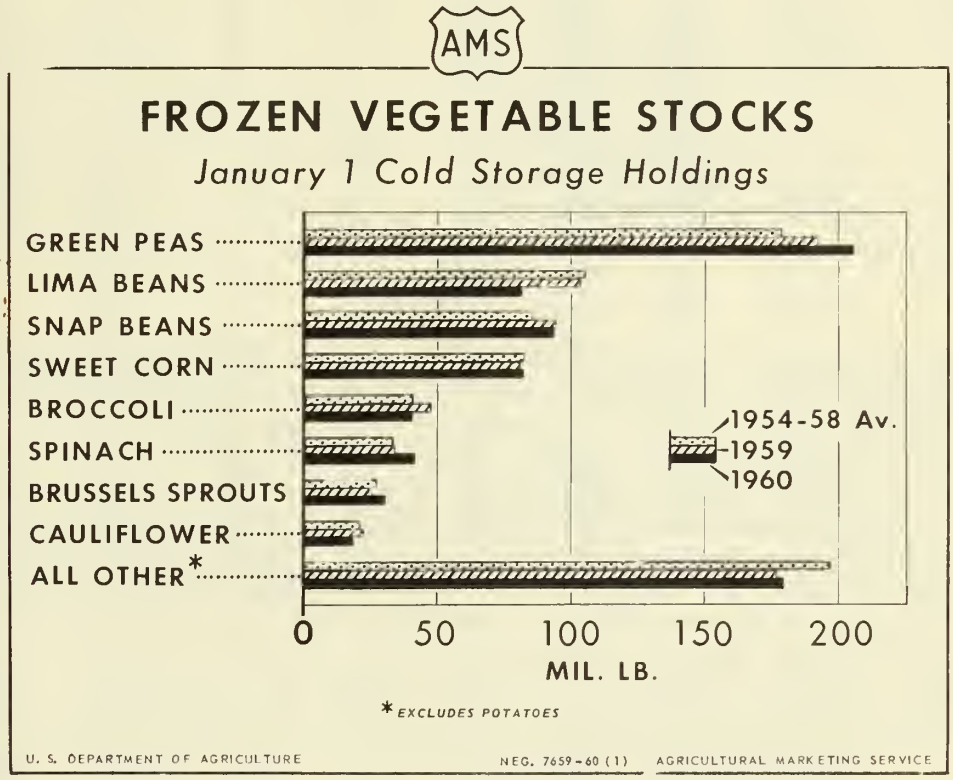

Total stocks of frozen vegetables on January 1 were about the same as a year earlier, but almost a tenth above the 1954-58 average. Supplies of green peas and spinach were relatively heavy, while holdings of lima beans were light.

Consumption of frozen vegetables in the first half of 1960 probably will be a little larger than in the first half of 1959. Retail prices of most items during the next 4 to 6 months probably will average a little above those of a year earlier.

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Table 1.--Vegetables and melons for fresh market: Commercial acreage, yield per acre, and production of principal crops, selected seasons, average 1949-58, 1959 and indicated 1960

Crop and seasonal group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1949-58	1959	Indicated 1960	Average 1949-58	1959	Indicated 1960	Average 1949-58	1959	Indicated 1960
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
VEGETABLES									
WINTER									
Artichokes	8,350	9,400	9,500	38	40	40	318	376	380
Beans, lima	640	500	450	26	20	16	18	10	7
Beans, snap	24,620	18,500	19,000	30	28	32	763	518	608
Beets	3,700	2,000	2,000	76	80	85	271	160	170
Broccoli	6,100	3,250	3,200	45	47	53	267	152	171
Brussels sprouts 1/	320	60	60	44	35	40	14	2	2
Cabbage 2/	40,490	40,500	47,800	160	146	158	6,475	5,900	7,560
Carrots	37,260	28,600	34,100	135	149	156	4,902	4,248	5,312
Cauliflower	4,830	2,400	2,950	96	76	83	461	182	245
Celery	10,020	13,450	11,500	433	415	443	4,337	5,581	5,094
Corn, sweet	5,910	8,000	6,000	66	48	60	412	384	360
Cucumbers	1,710	900	1,800	66	50	70	129	45	126
Eggplant	700	800	900	128	115	125	94	92	112
Escarole	4,520	6,400	6,200	123	120	125	555	768	775
Kale	2,760	2,500	2,000	72	70	75	198	175	150
Lettuce	63,650	61,700	66,900	136	141	141	8,586	8,690	9,439
Peas, green	1,340	---	---	18	---	---	22	---	---
Peppers, green	4,060	5,900	5,000	99	75	70	401	442	350
Shallots	3,350	1,700	1,400	26	21	28	88	36	39
Spinach	18,470	14,150	13,000	43	51	52	747	724	672
Tomatoes	15,870	16,100	11,300	106	115	125	1,713	1,852	1,412
Total	258,670	236,810	245,060	119	128	135	30,771	30,337	32,984
SPRING									
Asparagus 2/ 3/	141,870	160,000	154,700	23	23	---	3,317	3,620	---
Cabbage Early 2/ 3/	19,460	15,450	15,000	125	119	---	2,414	1,844	---
Onions Early 3/	35,780	33,000	28,500	69	65	---	2,296	2,145	---
Onions Late 3/	14,760	12,400	11,650	141	228	---	2,042	2,829	---
Watermelons Late 3/	89,680	80,700	80,800	86	80	---	7,735	6,462	---
Total Spring to date	301,550	301,550	290,650	59	56	---	17,804	16,900	---
Winter and Spring to date	560,220	538,360	535,710	87	88	---	48,575	47,237	---

1/ Short-time average.

2/ Includes processing.

3/ 1960 prospective acreage

Vegetables -- Fresh Market Report, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, January 27, 1960

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SUMMARY

On January 1 aggregate production of 20 commercial fresh vegetables for winter-season harvest was expected to be about 9 percent larger than last winter, and 7 percent above the 1949-58 average. However, near freezing to below freezing temperatures in Florida from January 20 to 25 resulted in heavy damage and serious loss of tender vegetables, most of which are produced in that State. Early reports indicate heavy loss of snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes and squash, and more moderate damage to green peppers. The prospective supply situation is much more favorable for the more hardy crops, a large portion of which is produced in California, Arizona and Texas. Also Florida acreage of such crops apparently came through the freeze with little damage. Among hardier crops, total U.S. tonnages of celery, kale and spinach are expected to be down materially as a result of less acreage. But materially larger tonnages are likely for cabbage, carrots, lettuce, broccoli, and cauliflower, and a more moderate increase for beets.

Remaining supplies of canned vegetables appear to be a little smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago, but at least moderately above the 1949-58 average. Except for sauerkraut, all major canned items appear to be in ample supply. January 1 stocks of frozen vegetables were about the same as those of a year earlier.

Movement of frozen vegetables into consumption during the first half of 1960 is expected to be moderately larger than in the first half of 1959, and movement of canned items probably slightly larger. Stocks of both canned and frozen items at the end of the current season are expected to be at least moderately smaller than the heavy stocks at the beginning of the season.

Supplies of potatoes available for distribution into early spring will be substantially smaller than the heavy supplies of a year earlier. January 1 stocks of fall-crop potatoes, at 97.5 million hundredweight, are down 10 percent from the high level of a year ago. Estimated winter production is also down substantially. The situation appears to be one of adequate, but not burdensome supplies. Into early spring, prices of both storage potatoes and new crop potatoes are expected to average materially above the low levels of a year earlier.

Reports indicate that growers plan to plant moderately more acreage this year than last to both early and late spring potatoes. Given near average weather for the rest of the season, production for spring harvest is likely to be moderately larger than last year. Prices in early spring probably will average substantially above those of early spring 1959. But the sharp advance of last spring is not likely to be repeated, and prices in late spring probably will average below the high levels of a year earlier.

The 1959 crop of sweetpotatoes was up 8 percent from 1958. Remaining supplies probably are at least moderately larger than a year ago. Prices to growers are likely to remain substantially below those of last season.

Production of colored classes of dry edible beans was much smaller in 1959 than in 1958. As a result, these classes are in tight supply, and prices high. Supply of white beans as a group was considerably larger than a year earlier. However, both domestic and export demand for white beans has been strong, with exports in the early part of the season unusually heavy. During the next 4 to 6 months prices to growers for colored beans are expected to remain well above those of a year earlier. Prices of white classes are expected to remain above support levels, though prices of pea beans, largest of the white classes, are likely to average below those of last season.

Supplies of dry field peas are much larger than the relatively light supplies of a year ago. Both export and domestic demand has been good so far this season, with exports running well ahead of last season. Domestic use is expected to exceed that of last season, but exports for the season as a whole may be down from the high levels of last season. During the next 4 to 6 months prices of green kinds probably will continue below those of a year earlier, but white and wrinkled kinds may remain higher.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

Production and Value of Fresh Vegetables in 1959 Near That of 1958; Melon Production Lower, Value Up

Acreage of vegetables harvested for fresh market sale in 1959, excluding melons, was 2 percent smaller than in 1958. Tonnage was about the same as a year earlier, and slightly larger than the 1949-57 average. Among the 10 items with the largest volume, production of cabbage, carrots, cauliflower

and cucumbers was substantially smaller than a year earlier, and snap beans slightly smaller. But output of celery and dry onions was materially larger than in 1958, tomatoes moderately larger, and lettuce and sweet corn slightly larger. Acreage of both cantaloups and watermelons was down from a year earlier. Production of cantaloups was fractionally larger, but production of watermelons was down almost a fifth.

Demand for fresh vegetables remained strong in 1959. Among the 10 leading vegetables from the standpoint of volume, prices averaged significantly lower for only two items -- celery and dry onions. Prices received by growers in 1959 were close to those of a year earlier for cauliflower and lettuce, and moderately to substantially higher for snap beans, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, sweet corn and tomatoes. Aggregate value of commercial vegetables, excluding melons, for fresh market in principal producing States, amounted to about $681 million in 1957, compared with about $675 million in 1958.

Prices of cantaloups were materially above those of 1958, and watermelons were much above the low levels of a year earlier. Aggregate value of melons amounted to about $111 million in 1959, well over the $87 million of 1958.

Low Temperatures in Florida Hit Winter Vegetables

January 1 estimates of the Crop Reporting Board indicated a production of winter vegetables about 9 percent larger than last winter and 7 percent above the 1949-58 average. However, tender crops, grown largely in Florida, suffered heavy damage and serious loss as a result of near freezing to below freezing temperatures from January 20 to 25. Early reports indicate heavy loss of snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes and squash, and more moderate damage to green peppers. Hardy crops, a large portion of which is grown in California, Arizona and Texas, are in a more favorable supply situation. Also, acreages of such crops in Florida came through the freeze with only light damage. Among the more important crops, production of sweet corn, tomatoes and green peppers is expected to be much smaller than last winter, and production of celery and spinach at least moderately smaller. But output of winter-season cabbage, carrots, cauliflower and lettuce is expected to be substantially larger than last winter. Among other vegetables, smaller supplies are in prospect for kale, and larger supplies for beets and broccoli.

Domestic production of tender winter vegetables, particularly tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers, will as usual be supplemented by imports from Mexico and Cuba. Early reports indicated that production of winter vegetables in Mexico would be larger than last winter. But recent heavy rains and floods have caused considerable damage and loss. However, with tight domestic supplies of tender vegetables, imports from Mexico may be as large as a year earlier. Production and imports from Cuba are expected to be below last winter.

Prospects For Leading Crops

Cabbage. Supplies of cabbage available this winter are likely to be materially larger than both last winter and the 1949-58 average. January 1 stocks of fall-crop cabbage were relatively light, but production for winter harvest is expected to be substantially above both last winter and average.

Growers of early fall cabbage, who received low prices for the 1958 crop, cut acreage moderately in 1959. Hot, dry weather, particularly in the East, was less favorable than a year earlier, and yield per acre was much lower. Total early fall production, for fresh market and processing, was down a fourth from 1958. Acreage in Upstate New York was moderately smaller than in 1958, and yield per acre was down sharply. As a result, harvested tonnage of Danish cabbage was a fourth smaller in 1959. Much of the crop was not of suitable quality for storage. Also, small overall supplies of cabbage and high prices this fall encouraged sales. This left January 1 stocks in producing areas of only 195,000 hundredweight, compared with 712,000 a year earlier and the 9-year average of 530,000. With only light supplies remaining, prices of storage cabbage are likely to continue relatively high. Most of the small late crop production in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina moved to market before January 1.

However, the great bulk of cabbage available in the first quarter of the year will come from winter production. January 1 reports indicate that output of cabbage for winter-season harvest is expected to be about a fourth larger than last winter. Acreage is up in all States except Arizona, which reports no change, and prospective yields are also higher in Texas and may be higher in Florida. Indicated production is up sharply in Texas and California. Production in Florida is also expected to be larger than a year ago, though low temperatures from January 20 to 25 retarded the crop and lowered quality. Arizona, of minor importance in the total picture, reports a smaller crop.

During the rest of the season, cabbage is expected to benefit from curtailed supplies of several other fresh vegetables. Despite the substantially larger supplies in prospect, prices to growers during the next 6 to 8 weeks may average close to those of a year earlier.

Early December reports indicate a slight reduction from 1959 in prospective acreage of cabbage for early spring harvest. But near normal yields might result in a little larger production than last year, when yields in most States were below average.

Celery. Supplies of celery are materially smaller this winter than last, but almost a sixth above the 1949-58 average. Acreage in all States is smaller than last winter. Most of the reduction in expected output is in Florida where acreage was down 17 percent and yield prospects have been cut by low temperatures. Prospective output in California is close to that of last winter, while the less important Arizona crop is down substantially.

Marketings of celery in early January were somewhat smaller than for the comparable weeks of 1959 and f.o.b. prices averaged higher. Supplies

available during the rest of the season are expected to remain materially below those of last winter. Prices to growers in the next 6 to 8 weeks are expected to average substantially above the low levels of a year earlier.

Lettuce. Production of lettuce for winter-season harvest promises to be materially larger than both last year and the 1949-58 average. Acreage was up in all States except Florida which reported no change, and yield per acre is up in Florida and Texas. Total prospective production is almost a tenth larger than both last winter and average. About three-fourths of the total winter production is in California, mostly in the Imperial Valley. Supplies are heavy, but growers and shippers in the Valley are operating under a State marketing agreement and order program, similar to the one in effect last winter. Purpose of the order in California is to limit shipments to the more desirable grades and sizes, promote orderly marketing and increase returns to growers. Also, lettuce is expected to benefit considerably from the tight supply situation for a number of other salad items. Rains in late December caused some lowering of quality, and low temperatures and heavy frosts on January 1-3 reduced head sizes and slowed maturity.

Onions. Supplies of onions available for distribution during the next 6 to 8 weeks are more than a fourth larger than a year earlier and a sixth larger than the 1950-58 average. The late summer crop, a large part of which goes into storage, was more than a tenth larger than both 1958 and the 10-year average. Disappearance of onions to January 1 was considerably larger than a year ago and the largest in the past decade. Reported losses to January 1 were heavier than last year in the important States of New York, Minnesota, Idaho-Eastern Oregon, Colorado and Western Oregon. Nevertheless, remaining supplies of sound onions held by growers and dealers on January 1 amounted to 5.7 million hundredweight, compared with 4.4 million a year earlier and the 9-year average of 4.8 million. Cold storage stocks were down in 1959, but holdings in common storage, more than 90 percent of the total, were up sharply. Biggest increase over January 1, 1959 was in the Eastern States, where total holdings were up 54 percent. Stocks were up 26 percent over 1959 in the Western States and 17 percent in the Central States. However, holdings in the Central States were slightly below average.

Production estimates are not yet available for the early spring crop in Texas. Early estimates indicate 28,500 acres for harvest in 1960, 14 percent less than last year. But most of the reduction this year is in dry land areas where yields are relatively low. Also, early plantings have made better progress and overall yield prospects are better than last year when the crop was seriously delayed and yields lowered by adverse weather. Early acreage is expected to furnish light shipments starting about mid-February, several weeks ahead of last year.

Larger January 1 supplies of storage onions, and the prospect of earlier volume movement from the early spring crop indicate large market supplies of onions during the next few weeks compared with the light supplies

of a year earlier. Both prices to growers and retail prices of onions during the next 6 to 8 weeks are expected to average much below the high levels of a year earlier.

Intentions reports indicate that growers plan to plant 6 percent less acreage of onions for late spring harvest than last year, and a fifth less than the 1949-58 average. In California, which accounts for almost two-thirds of the production, acreage is up 19 percent over 1959. But substantial reductions are in prospect in Arizona, Texas, North Carolina and Georgia. However, because of the larger acreage in California, where yield is relatively high, overall yield for the late spring crop may be moderately higher than last year. Yields near the 1956-59 average, by States, on the indicated acreage would result in a 1960 production near that of last year and much above the 10-year average. Production at this level probably would result in some marketing difficulties and below average prices.

Carrots. Early estimates indicate a production of carrots for winter harvest of 5.3 million hundredweight. This is about a fourth larger than last year and 8 percent above the 1949-58 average. Acreage and prospective production are up substantially in Texas, California and Arizona. Hot weather in Texas in September and early October and heavy rains in mid-October damaged early plantings and resulted in considerable replanting.

Weekly unloads of carrots in the 38 reporting cities during December were larger than a year ago, with the bulk of shipments from California and Texas. However, prices to growers averaged materially above the low levels of a year earlier. Unloads in the early weeks of January were substantially larger than those in comparable weeks of 1959, and f.o.b. prices averaged materially lower. Indications are that the harvest pattern in Texas may be more nearly normal than last year, when harvest was seriously delayed, with heavy marketings late in the season. However, with larger overall supplies available, prices for the remainder of the winter season probably will remain relatively low.

Tomatoes. The Florida crop of tomatoes for winter-season harvest is expected to be much smaller than both last year and the 1949-58 average. Acreage was down 30 percent from 1959, and the crop suffered heavy losses from low temperatures on January 20 to 25. Also, fewer tomatoes than last season are available for import from Cuba. Early reports indicated that more than last year might be available for import from the West Coast of Mexico. Heavy rains and floods in early January caused considerable damage. Nevertheless, with a larger acreage of staked tomatoes, which have a higher yield, tonnage available for export may be as large as a year earlier. In any event, total supplies for U. S. consumption are expected to be materially smaller this winter than last.

The next issue of the Vegetable Situation is scheduled for release on April 29, 1960.

Watermelons. Early reports indicate that growers plan to have about the same acreage of watermelons for late spring harvest this year as last. Prospective 1960 acreage in Florida is the same as in 1959, and in California 1-percent larger. Some early plantings in South Florida were destroyed by low temperatures in late January, and considerable replanting will be necessary. Yields near the 1955-59 average, by States, would result in production in Florida substantially larger than last spring, but at least moderately below the 1949-58 average; production in California would be smaller than last year, but probably above average. If output reaches these levels, prices to growers in California probably would average at least as high as the near average prices of last season; but prices to Florida growers probably would average materially below last season.

VEGETABLES FOR COMMERCIAL PROCESSING

1959 Acreage, Production, and Value of Vegetables for Processing Down From A Year Earlier

Harvested acreage of 10 crops for commercial processing was about 4 percent smaller in 1959 than in 1958, and about a tenth below the 1948-57 average. The 1959 growing season was generally favorable and, except for snap beans and cabbage, yields approached or exceeded the high levels of the previous season. However, because of acreage reductions in a number of crops, and the sharp cut in tomato acreage, a crop with relatively high yields per acre, overall production was down 8 percent from the high level of 1958. In addition to a much smaller production of tomatoes, tonnages of lima beans, beets, green peas, and cucumbers for pickles were down as a result of acreage cuts. Also, output of cabbage for kraut was down sharply as a result of 13 percent less acreage and a much lower yield. Sweet corn and spinach were the only important crops to show substantial increases in tonnage. Production of asparagus was up moderately, and snap beans up slightly.

Prices for cabbage for kraut, in 1959 were substantially higher than in 1958, for asparagus, beets and sweet corn a little higher, and for tomatoes the same as in 1958. Higher prices for some items were about offset by slightly to moderately lower prices for lima beans, snap beans, green peas, spinach and cucumbers for pickles. Total value of 10 important processing crops in 1959 amounted to a little more than $259 million, about 7 percent less than the value of the 1958 crops.

Prospects for 1960

Supplies of canned vegetables appear to be a little smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago, but materially larger than the 1949-58 average. Holdings of frozen vegetables are about in line with a year ago. Stocks of both canned and frozen items at the end of the current season probably will be at least moderately smaller than the relatively heavy stocks of a year earlier.

The movement and market tone of processed vegetables during the next 2 or 3 months will have some influence on processor operations in 1960. But overall supplies of processed vegetables in the last 3 seasons have been generally heavy, and prices paid to both canners and freezers for a number of major items have been low relative to their raw product, labor and material costs. To avoid the likelihood of burdensome supplies and low prices, processors should keep the 1960 pack in line with anticipated market requirements. The Departments 1960 acreage-marketing guide for commercial vegetables for processing, which gives detailed recommendations for individual items, is being prepared for release in early February. Copies may be obtained from the Agricultural Marketing Service.

CANNED VEGETABLES

Production of vegetables for commercial processing and incomplete pack data indicate that the total pack of canned vegetables in 1959 was somewhat larger than the 1949-57 average, but moderately to substantially smaller than the 1958 pack. Among the more important items, the pack of sweet corn was much larger than the light pack of a year earlier. But the packs of green peas, tomatoes, and tomato juice were materially smaller than the heavy packs of 1958, and the pack of sauerkraut was down sharply. Among other items on which information is available, the pack of green lima beans was materially larger than a year earlier and pumpkin and squash moderately larger. But packs of asparagus and cucumber pickles were down moderately, and packs of tomato catsup, paste, sauce, and pulp and puree were down substantially from the large packs of 1958.

Remaining Supplies a Little Smaller Than a Year Ago, Above Average

The smaller overall pack of canned vegetables in 1959, compared with 1958, was largely offset by substantially larger carryover stocks at the beginning of the current season. Thus, total supplies available for the current marketing year, ending in mid-1960, were near the heavy supplies of the previous season. Overall movement of canned vegetables in the first part of the season appears to have been moderately larger than in the corresponding months of last season. This, together with incomplete stocks data, indicates that remaining supplies of canned vegetables probably are a little smaller than a year ago, but at least moderately above the 1949-58 average. Among items on which recent stocks data are available, canner stocks of sweet corn were materially above the relatively low levels of a year ago. But canners' stocks of green peas were almost a fifth smaller than the heavy holdings of a year earlier, sauerkraut almost a third smaller and asparagus about a tenth smaller. Although recent stocks data are not available, remaining supplies of green lima beans, and spinach probably are larger than a year ago. Because of reduced 1959 packs, however, supplies of cucumbers for pickles probably are moderately smaller than a year ago, and supplies of tomatoes, tomato juice, and most tomato products substantially smaller. Most of these items were in very heavy supply a year ago. Except for sauerkraut, all major items appear to be in ample supply.

Movement of canned vegetables into consumption channels during the remainder of the current season is likely to be slightly larger than a year earlier. Overall stocks at the end of the current year are expected to be at least moderately smaller than the large stocks at the beginning of the season.

During the first part of the current season distributor demand was generally dull compared with canner offerings, and f.o.b. prices relatively low. In recent weeks prices of a large number of items have advanced slightly, but except for sauerkraut, pumpkin, spinach, and some tomato items, f.o.b. prices are generally below those of a year ago. Some further moderate price advances are expected into the spring. During the remainder of the season, f.o.b. prices are likely to average the same to slightly above those of last season. Retail prices are likely to average a little higher than a year earlier.

FROZEN VEGETABLES

1959 Pack Probably Near That of 1958

Pack figures for 1959 are not yet available for most frozen items, but there are indications that the total commercial pack of frozen vegetables was about the same or slightly larger than the 1,428 million pounds frozen in 1958. The 1959 pack of frozen green peas amounted to 305 million pounds, 53 million more than in 1958. The pack of cut corn at 117 million pounds was up 8 million pounds from a year earlier, and frozen asparagus at almost 33 million pounds was also up 8 million pounds. The 1959 pack of spinach probably was up substantially from a year earlier owing to the sharp increase in the important spring pack. These and other increases will be at least partly offset by expected decreases for broccoli, cauliflower, and a number of miscellaneous and mixed items.

Remaining Supplies About The Same as a Year Ago

Indications are that the overall rate of movement of frozen vegetables was moderately larger in the first half of the current season than a year earlier. Net outmovement in December amounted to almost 63 million pounds, 9 million more than in December 1958. Remaining supplies of 845 million pounds are 2 million less than a year ago, but substantially above the 1954-58 average. January 1 cold storage holdings of green peas, spinach and Brussels sprouts were materially larger than those of January 1, 1959 and sweet corn and frozen french fried potatoes slightly larger. But these increases were offset by substantially smaller stocks of asparagus, lima beans, broccoli, cauliflower, mixed peas and carrots, and mixed and "other" vegetables. Holdings of snap beans were slightly smaller than a year ago.

Prospect Next Few Months

Demand for frozen vegetables is likely to continue strong, and movement in the first half of 1960 is likely to be moderately larger than in the first half of 1959. Stocks at the end of the current season are likely to be at

least moderately below the relatively heavy holdings at the beginning of the season. Retail prices of frozen vegetables are expected to remain at moderate levels during the next 4 to 6 months, but prices of most items probably will average slightly to moderately above those of a year earlier. During the next two months, movement of frozen vegetables is likely to be stimulated by short supplies of a number of fresh items.

POTATOES

Review of 1959

Potato supplies were heavy during the winter of 1958-59, owing to large stocks of potatoes from the previous fall crop, and prices were generally low. By early spring, however, movement into food channels and heavy diversions to starch and livestock feed had reduced holdings of potatoes to moderate levels. Also, combined production of early and late spring potatoes in 1959 amounted to 26.7 million hundredweight, moderately less than either 1958 or the 1949-57 average. With these smaller supplies, prices to growers moved up sharply from $1.04 in March to $3.76 in June. As marketings from the summer crop picked up, prices declined rapidly from the high June level, but remained well above the depressed levels of a year earlier. Production of fall crop potatoes was materially below that of a year ago. Disappearance too has been somewhat smaller than in the fall of 1958. Disappearance of the 1959 fall crop to January 1 was about 68 million hundredweight, compared with almost 75 million from the larger 1958 crop. Movement to fresh market outlets probably was close to that of last fall, and movement to potato chippers and other food processors a little larger. But movement to starch factories and livestock feed was materially below 1958. Prices continue to average well above the low levels of last fall. Prices received by growers in December averaged $1.89 per hundredweight, compared with $1.17 in December 1958.

Much of Fall Crop Again Under Marketing Orders

Marketing agreement and order programs, similar to those in effect during the past several seasons, are again in effect this season in a number of major fall-producing areas. The orders impose certain size, quality, and maturity restrictions on marketing of tablestock potatoes. The regulations generally encourage more orderly marketing of better quality potatoes, and increase returns to growers. Federal marketing orders for potatoes are now in operation in Maine, the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and the counties of Modoc and

Siskiyou in Northern California. About 70 percent of the 1959 fall crop production was in areas covered by Federal marketing orders. Except for Maine, the size and/or quality restrictions under the Federal orders are somewhat lower this season than last. Some additional areas operate under State marketing agreements and orders.

Smaller Supplies, Higher Prices In Prospect Into Early Spring

Total supplies of potatoes available for distribution into early spring are somewhat smaller than the relatively heavy supplies of a year earlier. Stocks of potatoes on hand are smaller than a year ago, and estimated production for winter harvest also is down.

Total storage stocks of potatoes held by growers and dealers in 26 fall-producing States on January 1, 1960 amounted to 97.5 million hundredweight. These stocks according to the USDA Crop Reporting Board were moderately above the 10-year average but almost 11 million hundredweight below those of January 1, 1959. Production of potatoes for 1960 winter harvest in Florida and California was estimated on January 1 at 3.5 million hundredweight, compared with 4.0 million last winter. Also, the Florida crop was damaged and yield prospects lowered by low temperatures from January 20 to 25. The winter crop of course makes up only a small part of the market requirements for the season; the bulk of winter supplies come from storage stocks.

The picture into early spring looks like one of ample but not burdensome overall supplies of potatoes. However, supplies of new crop winter potatoes are expected to be the smallest since 1952. Prices of both storage and new crop potatoes into early spring are expected to average materially above the low levels of a year earlier.

Spring Production Likely To be Moderately Larger; No Sharp Price Increase

Although no production estimates are available for the spring crops, production probably will be somewhat larger than the relatively light output of 1959. Intentions reports indicate that acreage for early spring harvest, partically all of which is in Florida, will likely be about 8 percent larger than last year. Also, yields may be above last spring, when much of the Florida crop ran to small sizes. Yields near the average of recent years on intended acreage would result in early spring production materially larger than the 1959 crop of 3.1 million hundredweight.

Intentions reports indicate that potato growers plan to plant about 6 percent more acreage for late spring harvest this year than last. On such an acreage, yields near the average of recent years would result in a production a little larger than in 1959, and probably close to the 1949-58 average. Acreage in California, which grows about 60 percent of the late spring crop, is up 13 percent from last year. However, yields may be at least moderately below the high level of 1959. Acreage is up 4 percent in Texas, but down 10 percent in Arizona. In large producing areas in the East, acreage is up 11 percent in Alabama, and up slightly in North Carolina.

If growing and harvesting conditions for the spring crop are near the average of recent years, prices to growers in early spring will likely average substantially above the early weeks of the 1959 spring season. But prices are not likely to show sharp advances similar to those of last spring. Prices of potatoes in late spring probably will average materially below the levels of a year earlier.

Foreign Trade

On an annual basis United States foreign trade in potatoes, conducted mostly with Canada, is small relative to domestic production. Exports typically amount to less than 2 percent of production, and imports less than 1 percent. Nevertheless, to certain areas and at certain times our foreign trade is important. United States exports of potatoes from July 1958 through June 1959 amounted to about 4 million hundredweight, and imports less than 1 million hundredweight.

United States exports of potatoes in the early part of the current season were below the corresponding period of last season. But with Canadian supplies materially smaller than a year ago, U. S. exports in the first half of 1960 are expected to be substantially larger than those of a year earlier. Imports into the U. S. into mid-1960 are likely to be relatively light, and to consist mainly of seed stock.

Prospects Beyond Spring

It is too early to attempt to assess the probable supply and price prospects for potatoes into summer and fall. But it is not too early for producers to begin shaping up plans for these crops. In laying their plans producers should remember that people like to eat about the same quantity of potatoes from one year to the next, regardless of price. Any substantial overproduction results in seriously depressed prices. To avoid the likelihood of burdensome supplies and low prices, producers should make at least moderate cuts in acreage of both summer and fall crop potatoes.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture Acreage-Marketing Guide for the early summer, late summer and fall crops will be released in February. Through these recommendations, an attempt is made to guide growers in adjusting production to anticipated market needs. Copies of the guides may be obtained from the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

SWEETPOTATOES

1960 Crop Materially Larger Than Last Year

Sweetpotato production in 1959, at 18.7 million hundredweight, was moderately below the 1948-57 average, but about 8 percent above that of 1958. Acreage harvested was slightly larger than in 1958, with increases in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, and California. These increases more than offset declines in Maryland, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. No change in acreage from last year was reported for New Jersey, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The season was generally favorable for sweetpotatoes and U. S. average yield of 68 hundredweight per acre was record high.

Combined production in New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Texas and California, which furnish the bulk of shipments in the last half of the season, was 7 percent larger than last year. Unloads data indicate that so far this season marketings from these States have been a little larger than in the comparable period last season. This indicates that remaining supplies are at least moderately, and perhaps materially, larger than a year ago.

Prices Next Few Months Likely to Continue Below a Year Earlier

Demand for sweetpotatoes this season is about the same as it was last season, but this season's larger crop has kept prices under pressure. During the first half of the season total unloads in the 38 cities reporting were slightly above those of a year earlier and prices to growers averaged about 50 cents lower. Peak marketings occurred in the fall, with a seasonal low price of $2.54 per hundredweight to the grower in October. Prices to growers in December averaged $3.43 per hundredweight, but were still more than a dollar below those of mid-December 1958. The 8 percent larger crop in 1959 than in 1958, together with unloads data in the 38 cities, indicate that current holdings of sweetpotatoes are somewhat larger than holdings a year ago. Prices during the next 2 to 3 months are likely to average substantially below those of a year earlier.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Total Supplies Little Below Last Season; Less Colored More White

Total production of dry edible beans in 1959 was 18.2 million hundredweight, compared with 19.2 million in 1958. Stocks at the beginning of the current season were somewhat larger than a year earlier. Thus, total supplies available for distribution in the 1959-60 season were only slightly less than last season and slightly more than the 1953-57 average. Although total supplies were close to those of a year ago, distribution by classes was quite different.

Total supplies of colored beans available in the current season amounted to a little less than 7 million hundredweight, almost a fifth less than last season, and materially below average. Production of Pintos, at 4.3 million hundredweight, was about 600,000 hundredweight less than last year. As beginning stocks of this class probably were smaller than they were last season, supply was likely down more than 600,000 bags, and substantially below average. Among other important colored classes, production of both red kidney and small reds was much smaller in the 1959 season than in 1958. As a result, supply of red kidney beans is about 30 percent smaller than both last season and the recent 5-year average. Supply of small red beans in the current season was down a third from last season, and moderately below the 1953-57 average. Among the less important classes, pink beans are also in substantially smaller supply than a year ago, but supplies of cranberry beans are larger. All colored beans together make up about 36 percent of the total supplies compared with 43 percent last season and the 1953-57 average of 42 percent.

In contrast to the light supply of colored beans, total supply of white beans at the beginning of the season amounted to more than 9 million hundredweight. This was about an eighth larger than in the previous season, and a fourth above the 1953-57 average. Because of sharply higher yields in Michigan, production of pea beans, at 5.8 million hundredweight, was considerably above the 5.1 million produced in 1958. Production of great northern and small white beans was also up, and supplies of each of these were substantially larger than both last season and average. Total supply of lima beans was materially smaller than a year ago and much below average. Supplies of baby limas were about the same as last season, but because of reduced production, supplies of large limas were about an eighth smaller. Supply of blackeye beans appeared to be about the same as last season, and a tenth above average.

Disappearance Probably
Will be Smaller
Than Last Season

Domestic use of dry beans in the current season may be slightly above the 14.9 million hundredweight used last season. Since domestic demand for dry beans is quite inelastic, however, there is little prospect for any very sizeable increase.

Exports of dry beans from this country, greatly influenced by production in Europe, vary considerably from year to year. But in recent years there has been a growing demand for export. This trend toward increased exports is expected to continue in the years ahead. However, the very heavy exports -- 4.0 million hundredweight -- last season was due in part to a poor crop in Europe. With the 1959 crop in Central and Northern Europe reported to be hard hit by prolonged drought, and with heavy U. S. supplies of white beans, large exports in the first part of the current season resulted. Total exports of dry beans in the period September-November amounted to 1.2 million hundredweight compared with 704,000 hundredweight a

year earlier. All of the increase was in white types, as export movement of colored types was smaller than a year earlier. Exports of white beans for the season as a whole probably will be very large. However, because of tight supplies and high prices of colored beans, it seems unlikely that total exports of beans will be as large this season as last.

Price Prospects

Domestic demand for both white and colored beans was good and export movement of white classes in the early part of the season was unusually large. Colored classes are in generally tight supply and prices for the season to date have averaged materially above those of a year earlier. For example, according to the Bean Market News, Colorado shipping point prices of Pintos, largest of the colored classes, was $8.60 to $8.75 per hundredweight for the week ended January 14, compared with about $6.80 a year earlier. Red kidneys and small reds are also in light supply and prices are substantially above those of a year ago. During the next few months prices of all major colored classes are expected to remain well above those of last season.

Prices of both large and baby limas are above a year earlier. Supplies of Great Northern are significantly larger than a year ago. But demand has been strong and in recent weeks prices of northerns have moved above year earlier levels. Heavy supplies of pea beans, largest of the white classes, continue to weigh on markets. Prices for this class are expected to remain below those of a year earlier, but above support levels.

Pricing Policy for any
1959-Crop Dry Beans
Taken Over Under Support

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced that the Commodity Credit Corporation had no inventory of dry beans as of January 21, but outlined a pricing policy for any beans that might be taken over in coming weeks under the price support program.

Through December 31, 1959, a total of 1,822,066 hundredweight of 1959-crop dry beans had been put under price-support loans and purchase agreements. This is somewhat smaller than the 2,789,586 hundredweight of 1958-crop dry beans put under support through December 31,1958. Market prices have been above support prices and producers should find it profitable to redeem their beans under price-support loan prior to the maturity dates of February 29 in New York, Michigan, and Pennsylvania and April 30 in all other States.

Any 1959-crop dry beans taken over by the Commodity Credit Corporation will be sold at the higher of the domestic market price or the statutory minimum price, which is 105 percent of the 1959 support rates plus reasonable carrying charges. This pricing will apply to both domestic and export sales. Any 1959-crop beans acquired under price support and which are not sold

through commercial channels under this pricing policy will be made available, prior to the 1960 harvest, to noncommercial outlets such as domestic and foreign donation.

The pricing policy is designed to encourage maximum movement of dry beans into commercial market channels. It removes any uncertainty regarding CCC pricing of dry beans and should make commercial holding of the dry bean inventory possible.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Supplies Much Larger Than Light Supplies Of Last Season

Supplies of dry field peas are much larger than the relatively light supplies of a year ago, and probably moderately above the 1949-57 average. Stocks of dry peas at the beginning of the season, September 1, 1959, were very light and far below the relatively heavy stocks of a year earlier. But 1959 production of 4.4 million hundredweight was the second largest since 1947 and about 75 percent larger than the small 1958 crop. Biggest increase in 1959 production over 1958, occurred in Alaskas and other smooth green kinds, which were up about 90 percent. But production of white Canada and other yellow and white kinds was about two-thirds larger than in 1958, and output of "other peas," mostly wrinkled kinds, was up about 50 percent. Total production in Washington, at 2.2 million hundredweight, was double that of last season, and production in Idaho, at 1.8 million hundredweight, was up 64 percent. The larger overall crops was the result of 47 percent more harvested acreage in 1959, and record high yields.

Demand Strong, Prices Firm to Strong

Domestic use of dry field peas in the current season is likely to be materially larger than last season. Dry peas were in tight supply last season, prices were relatively high and domestic use for food was drastically curtailed. Export demand in the early part of the season has also been unusually strong. In the period September-November exports of green kinds amounted to 433,000 hundredweight compared with 329,000 a year earlier, and exports of white and yellow kinds combined amounted to 336,000 hundredweight compared with 158,000 a year earlier. Although exports for the season as a whole may be down somewhat from the high level of last season, they are expected to compare favorably with most other recent years. So far this season f.o.b. prices of smooth green and wrinkled kinds have averaged below those of a year earlier, but prices of white and yellow kinds have averaged higher. With prospects for a good rate of movement into both domestic and foreign channels, prices in the next 4 to 6 months are expected to remain firm to strong.

Smaller Crop Needed in 1960

Indications are that a smaller crop will be needed in 1960. Carryover stocks of dry peas at the beginning of next season are likely to be substantially above the very light carryover at the beginning of the current season. This together with a crop as large as in 1959 -- 4.4 million hundredweight -- probably would result in burdensome supplies in the 1960-61 season. Domestic use of dry peas for food in 1960-61 probably will be somewhere around one million hundredweight. Based on experience of recent years, another 1.5 to 1.6 million hundredweight will go into domestic nonfood uses -- feed, seed for dry and green crops, and loss. Total domestic use typically amounts to 2.5 to 2.7 million hundredweight. Thus, in years of big crops the export market assumes increased importance. Exports in the last 3 or 4 seasons have averaged much above those of earlier years, reaching 1.5 million hundredweight in the 1958-59 season. Exports are expected to remain relatively high. But unless production is cut in 1960, and barring serious crop failure in Europe, foreign markets in 1960-61 probably would not take enough peas to keep prices to growers from falling to very low levels. To forestall the likelihood of surplus supplies and low prices next season, growers in 1960 should plant substantially less acreage than in 1959.

Table 2.--Vegetables and melons for fresh market: Commercial acreage, production, and season average price per hundredweight received by farmers for principal crops, average 1949-57, annual 1958 and 1959

Crop	Acreage			Production			Price per hundredweight		
	Average 1949-57	1958	1959	Average 1949-57	1958	1959	Average 1949-57	1958	1959
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Artichokes	8,230	9,400	9,400	317	329	376	9.12	10.22	9.09
Asparagus	42,640	50,650	48,800	1,132	1,314	1,254	13.47	12.84	13.66
Beans, lima	18,540	12,850	12,100	472	328	276	8.27	8.38	10.03
Beans, snap	160,310	128,050	127,350	5,301	4,449	4,387	8.42	8.05	9.03
Beets	6,740	4,850	4,200	707	530	470	2.67	2.59	2.52
Broccoli 1/	39,880	39,930	40,750	1,983	2,192	2,260	8.23	7.73	7.72
Brussels sprouts 1/	5,750	5,050	5,710	556	570	590	9.30	8.82	9.09
Cabbage 1/	133,260	119,460	119,060	22,007	21,166	19,043	1.75	1.71	2.18
Cantaloups 2/	128,320	134,800	125,900	11,814	12,601	12,733	4.12	3.95	4.38
Carrots 1/3/	80,640	69,940	65,650	14,920	15,215	13,615	3.07	2.78	3.02
Cauliflower 1/	30,830	30,250	27,200	4,616	4,646	4,120	3.37	3.58	3.46
Celery 1/3/	35,930	35,780	38,130	14,367	14,069	15,227	3.74	4.46	3.24
Corn, sweet	204,550	211,350	213,150	11,532	13,169	13,307	3.60	3.40	3.66
Cucumbers	49,770	50,650	48,900	3,777	4,047	3,658	5.05	4.65	5.71
Eggplant	4,820	4,600	5,100	476	422	498	4.79	5.56	6.03
Escarole	5,110	6,400	7,500	650	758	938	4.47	5.53	4.28
Garlic 1/ 3/	2,310	2,900	3,200	162	218	272	11.40	10.41	9.47
Honey balls	290	---	---	26	---	---	6.11	---	---
Honey dews	10,830	11,170	8,260	1,449	1,285	1,239	4.68	4.68	5.58
Kale	2,790	2,500	2,500	202	162	175	3.75	5.80	4.00
Lettuce	214,930	224,110	218,980	30,597	32,697	33,011	4.17	4.03	3.95
Onions 1/ 3/	119,280	106,250	113,430	22,242	23,742	25,561	2.68	3.39	2.41
Peas, green	16,430	8,400	7,150	529	237	273	7.92	8.12	10.24
Peppers, green	41,810	39,950	43,450	2,583	2,412	2,578	8.38	10.13	10.25
Shallots	5,810	4,000	3,300	155	86	62	7.39	5.87	6.34
Spinach 4/	39,900	30,950	29,790	1,998	1,654	1,564	5.70	6.57	6.51
Tomatoes	230,500	222,650	200,120	19,015	18,824	19,609	6.87	6.35	7.30
Watermelons	401,700	457,150	388,900	28,841	36,306	29,437	1.40	1.05	1.65
Total	2,041,900	2,024,040	1,917,980	202,426	213,428	206,533			

1/ Includes some quantities used for processing.
2/ Includes Casabas, Persians, and other muskmelons.
3/ Includes production used for dehydration.
4/ Includes production for processing in those States for which separate estimates of fresh market and processing production are not prepared.

Annual summary, Vegetables - Fresh Market, USDA, AMS, December 16, 1959.

Table 3.--Truck crops, potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Unloads at 38 markets, indicated periods 1959 and 1960

(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

Commodity	Oct. 31 - Nov. 27, 1959				Dec. 5 - 31, 1959				Jan. 3 - 16, 1959				Jan. 1 - 15, 1960			
	Rail, boat, and air	Truck 1/	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck 1/	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total
Asparagus	---	12	---	12	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, lima, snap, and fava	65	601	19	685	72	357	114	543	40	194	59	293	99	240	31	370
Beets	1	74	---	75	1	33	---	34	---	12	---	12	---	18	---	18
Broccoli	162	126	---	288	189	94	---	283	116	57	---	173	94	66	---	160
Cabbage	181	2,569	---	2,750	561	1,783	62	2,406	316	1,243	---	1,559	538	1,086	25	1,649
Cantaloups and other melons 2/	17	148	---	165	---	1	10	12	---	---	20	20	---	---	19	19
Carrots	619	1,216	22	1,857	611	1,085	5	1,701	283	505	2	790	414	478	---	892
Cauliflower	104	1,247	---	1,351	169	492	---	661	144	249	---	393	144	210	---	354
Celery	1,637	1,575	---	3,212	1,452	1,651	---	3,103	669	799	---	1,468	664	669	---	1,333
Corn	153	542	---	695	14	139	3	156	44	105	---	149	5	30	5	40
Cucumbers	42	1,064	---	1,106	7	306	115	428	11	133	81	225	28	145	110	283
Escarole and endive	8	187	---	195	23	232	---	255	30	56	---	86	40	114	2	156
Lettuce and romaine	3,187	2,468	5	5,660	3,152	2,343	4	5,499	1,675	1,172	---	2,847	1,777	1,308	1	3,086
Onions 3/	606	2,689	2	3,297	577	2,236	13	2,826	415	1,094	---	1,509	326	834	16	1,176
Peas, green	52	8	---	60	28	15	7	50	2	3	21	26	---	1	15	16
Peppers	433	559	5	997	107	255	128	490	93	257	25	375	6	176	130	312
Spinach	28	329	---	357	195	157	---	352	135	82	---	217	123	69	---	192
Tomatoes	972	3,012	57	4,041	253	11,301	634	12,188	193	1,013	255	1,461	114	545	626	1,285
Turnips and rutabagas	1	286	335	622	---	237	219	456	3	182	141	326	1	166	107	274
Watermelons	---	3	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other Vegetables (including mixed)	802	62	---	864	1,442	81	---	1,523	742	60	---	802	959	50	---	1,009
Total	9,070	18,777	445	28,292	8,853	22,798	1,314	32,966	4,911	7,216	604	12,731	5,332	6,205	1,087	12,624
Potatoes	5,755	8,275	14	14,044	5,884	7,630	16	13,530	3,581	3,840	2	7,423	3,925	3,553	3	7,481
Sweetpotatoes	18	2,852	---	2,870	20	2,108	---	2,128	8	628	---	636	5	597	1	603
Grand total	14,843	29,904	459	45,206	14,757	32,536	1,330	48,624	8,500	11,684	606	20,790	9,262	10,355	1,091	20,708

1/ Revised to reflect heavier truck loading--reference special notice in January 18, 1960 Weekly Shipments-Unloads Summary, AMS.
2/ Except watermelons. 3/ Includes shallots, chives, cipolinas, leeks, scallions, and green onions.

Markets include: Albany, Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, Newark, New Orleans, New York, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Portland (Ore.), Providence, St. Louis, St. Paul, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Francisco, Washington, and Wichita.

Truck unloads are not 100 percent complete but represent highest percentage obtainable under local conditions in markets covered.

Market News: Weekly reports, USDA, AMS.

Table 4.--Vegetables fresh: Representative wholesale prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when available) indicated periods, 1958, 1959 and 1960

Market and Commodity	State of Origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1958-59			1959-60		
			Nov. 11	Dec. 16	Jan. 13	Nov. 10	Dec. 15	Jan. 12
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York								
Beans, snap, green, Valentine	Florida	Bu. hamper	---	4.25	6.50	5.50	6.50	3.50
Broccoli, bunched	California	14's small crt.	3.15	3.20	3.68	2.90	4.00	3.75
Cabbage, domestic round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	---	4.50	3.50	---	---	2.75
Cabbage, Danish type	New York	50 lb. sack	---	1.63	1.23	3.35	3.38	1.75
Carrots, bunched	California	4 doz. pony crt.	5.38	5.50	4.25	4.25	5.75	---
Carrots, topped, washed	California	48-1-lb. film bag crt.	4.20	4.50	5.92	4.35	5.50	---
Cauliflower	Texas	Long Island crt. 12's	---	4.38	3.75	---	---	3.75
Celery, Golden Heart	Florida	2½-4 doz. 16 in. crt.	---	2.40	3.42	---	4.00	4.00
Celery, Pascal	California	2½ doz. 16 in. crt.	4.89	5.21	5.30	5.00	4.65	5.00
Corn, green	Florida	5 doz. crt., yellow	3.06	3.75	4.13	2.50	5.00	4.00
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.95	4.32	---	4.50	---	5.50
Eggplant	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.40	3.10	4.13	4.25	6.00	3.50
Escarole	Florida	1-1/9 bu. crt.	1.70	1.79	1.52	4.00	4.50	1.45
Lettuce, Iceberg type	California	2 doz. crtn.	3.07	3.28	2.95	3.00	4.50	4.75
Onions, yellow, large size	Idaho	50 lb. sack	3.10	3.01	4.25	2.60	2.40	2.50
Onions, yellow, medium size	New York	50 lb. sack	1.80	2.05	2.88	1.20	1.25	1.05
Peppers, green, California Wonder	Florida	Bu. bskt.	---	3.61	4.40	---	8.00	7.50
Spinach, Savoy type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	---	1.89	2.15	---	2.15	1.90
Tomatoes, green ripe, unwrapped	Florida	1/ 6x6 60-lb. crt.	12.30	9.17	6.14	6.70	11.10	8.60
Chicago								
Beans, snap, green, Valentine	Florida	Bu. hamper	2.85	3.75	7.00	5.25	7.00	7.25
Broccoli	California	14's ½ crt.	2.75	2.75	3.15	3.50	3.50	3.50
Cabbage, domestic round type	Texas	1-3/4 bu. crt.	---	4.00	2.85	---	5.00	3.00
Carrots, topped, washed	California	48-1-lb. film bag crt.	3.75	4.25	5.65	4.15	4.50	3.75
Cauliflower	California	Film wrapped 12's	---	---	---	---	4.50	3.35
Celery, Pascal type	California	2-3 doz. 16 in. crt.	4.35	4.45	4.75	4.75	4.50	4.25
Corn, green	Florida	5 doz. crt., yellow	2.75	3.50	4.00	2.35	---	5.25
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.75	4.25	9.00	4.75	11.00	5.25
Eggplant	Florida	Bu. bskt.	2.75	2.75	3.75	4.50	5.00	3.25
Escarole	Florida	1-1/9 bu. crt.	1.88	2.25	1.75	2.50	4.00	1.65
Lettuce, Iceberg type, dry pack	Arizona	2 doz. heads, crtn.	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	3.75	4.75
Onions, Spanish, yellow	Colorado	3" & Lgr. 50 lb. sack	2.65	2.50	3.75	2.15	---	2.20
Onions, Yellow Globe	Midwestern	50 lb. sack, medium	2.00	2.40	3.00	1.50	1.50	1.30
Peppers, green, California Wonder type	Florida	Bu. bskt.	---	4.25	4.50	---	8.00	8.50
Spinach, flat type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	---	---	3.00	---	---	2.15
Tomatoes, green ripe and turning	Florida	2/ 8 lb. cartons	---	1.75	2.00	---	---	2.65

1/ 1¼ bu. crate.

2/ With or without stems.

Weekly summary of terminal market prices, USDA, AMS, Market News Reports.

Table 5.--Vegetables, fresh: Average price received by farmers, per hundredweight, United States, indicated periods, 1958 and 1959

Commodity	Average first half of month				
	1958		1959		
	November	December	October	November	December
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Beans, snap	8.80	7.50	7.90	11.50	15.80
Broccoli	7.90	8.90	9.50	9.10	11.50
Cabbage	1.40	1.95	3.05	3.15	3.70
Carrots	2.95	2.80	3.25	3.25	3.40
Cauliflower	3.75	4.55	4.60	4.40	4.50
Celery	4.20	3.05	4.80	4.20	3.50
Corn, sweet	3.40	3.80	4.45	4.00	6.60
Cucumbers	5.10	4.60	5.00	7.90	14.40
Lettuce	3.25	3.35	6.50	4.40	4.85
Onions	2.60	3.05	1.90	1.75	1.60
Peppers, green	12.50	10.70	7.60	9.70	18.00
Spinach	5.40	6.50	6.90	7.00	9.60
Tomatoes	10.60	7.70	8.40	8.50	10.50

Agricultural Prices, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 6.--Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted) of prices received by farmers, as of 15th of the month, United States by months, average 1935-39, average 1947-49, and 1950 to date 1/

(1910-1914 = 100)

Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1935-39	114	121	133	130	125	98	87	82	81	90	103	115	107
1947-49	288	305	310	308	277	215	207	196	193	204	241	246	249
Year													
1950	257	213	195	276	231	211	200	170	156	165	214	249	211
1951	338	346	288	333	276	215	203	197	190	211	290	343	269
1952	301	249	294	341	311	294	289	240	203	227	272	285	276
1953	267	273	254	252	251	285	246	209	191	206	226	241	242
1954	254	239	236	265	255	204	222	192	176	202	240	223	226
1955	251	273	260	272	254	220	206	210	226	219	245	230	239
1956	246	276	271	246	262	291	264	202	184	215	281	267	250
1957	241	237	238	271	285	281	269	233	200	213	217	246	244
1958	310	356	401	342	280	218	197	173	183	214	256	236	264
1959 2/	302	304	298	294	285	227	229	228	229	266	248	299	267

1/ In addition to the vegetables included in the series published prior to January 1954, the following have been added; broccoli, sweet corn, cucumbers, and watermelons.

2/ Preliminary.

Agricultural Prices, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 7.--Vegetables for commercial processing: Acreage, production, and season average price per ton received by farmers, average 1948-57, annual 1958 and 1959

Commodity	Harvested acreage			Production			Price per ton		
	Average 1948-57	1958	1959	Average 1948-57	1958	1959	Average 1948-57	1958	1959
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Tons	Tons	Tons	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Asparagus	95,200	107,340	111,200	105,830	111,300	118,300	209.80	193.50	197.80
Beans lima 1/	101,600	81,680	77,760	93,300	88,800	82,700	147.40	140.90	133.40
Beans, snap	131,800	153,160	164,670	290,700	364,500	368,700	117.00	110.50	107.30
Beets	17,600	16,160	13,490	153,300	153,200	142,000	20.70	17.70	18.10
Cabbage for kraut	15,900	11,950	10,370	200,700	203,000	141,000	13.90	11.60	14.80
Corn, sweet 2/	442,600	388,000	418,700	1,376,400	1,329,900	1,578,800	21.20	18.80	19.10
Cucumbers for pickles	131,800	119,350	100,500	293,500	356,800	335,200	60.50	53.30	51.40
Peas, green 1/	427,900	378,400	345,100	449,800	485,800	471,200	89.80	88.30	87.90
Spinach 3/	33,310	30,520	34,200	124,700	121,700	151,800	41.50	41.20	37.90
Tomatoes	340,300	345,750	287,730	3,298,300	4,287,400	3,538,300	26.50	25.40	24.40
Total	1,737,500	1,632,310	1,563,720	6,381,200	7,502,400	6,928,000			

1/ Production and price on a "shelled" basis.
2/ Corn in the husk.
3/ Averages are 1949-57.

Annual Summary, Vegetables - Processing, USDA, AMS, December 16, 1959.

Table 8.--Frozen vegetables: Cold-storage holdings, December 31, 1959, with comparisons

Commodity	Dec. average 1954-58	1958	1959				
		Dec. 31	Aug. 31	Sept. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 30	Dec. 31 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	18,682	20,275	29,693	26,841	22,649	19,762	16,994
Beans, lima	105,173	103,258	71,570	107,894	105,932	93,269	81,846
Beans, snap	85,508	94,802	130,818	133,639	123,379	109,580	93,303
Broccoli	40,634	47,872	36,386	36,781	42,828	42,126	40,528
Brussels sprouts	27,112	25,368	8,394	14,161	21,460	27,256	30,893
Carrots	2/	2/	9,894	9,192	24,946	39,110	37,994
Cauliflower	21,140	23,026	11,058	10,290	14,244	17,396	18,449
Corn, sweet	82,585	80,898	60,123	102,106	102,186	95,000	82,184
Mixed vegetables	2/	24,826	12,149	11,981	12,934	17,206	20,172
Peas, green	178,745	192,564	312,360	292,661	260,119	235,018	205,676
Peas and carrots, mixed	2/	18,284	8,221	7,154	11,105	11,768	13,398
Potatoes, french fried	2/	68,248	50,348	45,695	50,911	59,412	71,490
Spinach	33,223	33,981	58,115	51,189	50,232	47,388	41,209
All other vegetables	179,173	113,451	72,618	75,446	87,737	92,679	91,074
Total	771,975	846,853	871,747	925,030	930,662	906,970	845,210

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Data not available.
Cold Storage report, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 9.--Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1958 and 1959 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks 1958 and 1959, by commodities, United States

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
			Canners 1/			Wholesale distributors 1/		
	1958	1959	Date	1958	1959	Date	1958	1959
	1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	26,432	25,338	July 1	4,909	5,592	July 1	2,484	2,571
Corn, sweet	27,075	33,810	Dec. 1	20,703	23,780	Nov. 1	3,509	3,207
Peas, green	29,549	25,674	Dec. 1	23,377	19,242	Nov. 1	3,226	3,547
Tomatoes	30,465	24,126	July 1	2,715	6,512	July 1	2,652	2,901
Tomato juice 2/	37,467	31,116	July 1	9,400	10,747	July 1	2,349	2,742
Total	150,988	140,064		61,104	65,873		14,220	14,968
Minor commodities								
Asparagus	6,183	5,811	Oct. 1	3,558	3,698	Apr. 1	614	556
Beans, lima	2,464	2,692	Aug. 1	581	471	July 1	477	422
Beets	8,030	n.a.	July 1	2,998	2,651	July 1	1,043	1,107
Blackeye peas	1,951	n.a.						
Carrots	3,186	n.a.	July 1	1,284	1,266	July 1	418	408
Okra 3/	853	n.a.						
Pickles	4/24,262	4/22,794						
Pimientos	493	n.a.						
Pumpkin and squash	3,535	3,666	July 1	1,047	865	July 1	388	405
Sauerkraut	4/10,962	4/7,614	Dec. 1	5/7,514	5/5,169	Nov. 1	723	774
Potatoes	3,383	n.a.						
Sweetpotatoes	7,017	n.a.						
Spinach	5,240	n.a.	Mar. 1	1,806	1,104	Apr. 1	604	583
Other greens	2,318	n.a.						
Tomato products:								
Catsup and chili sauce	21,075	19,258	July 1	5,835	7,043	July 1	1,559	1,400
Paste	6/11,477	6/8,520	July 1	7/1,632	7/2,899	July 1	642	658
Pulp and puree	4,320	3,525	July 1	7/1,070	7/1,067	July 1	645	558
Sauce	12,158	9,448	July 1	7/1,458	7/3,764	July 1	858	672
Vegetables, mixed	3,463	n.a.						
Total comparable minor items	132,370	83,328		28,783	29,997		7,971	7,543
Grand total comparable items	283,358	223,392		89,887	95,870		22,191	22,511

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans.
2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice.
3/ Okra, okra and tomatoes, and okra, corn and tomatoes.
4/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh).
5/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24/2's by using 14 cases to the barrel.
6/ Estimated, basis California pack.
7/ California only.

n.a. - not available.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted. Wholesale distributors' stock from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.--Potatoes: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1949-57, annual 1958 and 1959

Seasonal Group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested								
	Average 1949-57	1958	1959 1/	Average 1949-57	1958	1959 1/	Average 1949-57	1958	1959 1/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Winter	26.3	34.5	26.3	156.2	144.1	152.3	4,103	4,971	4,005
Spring									
Early	24.8	31.2	25.6	134.8	150.7	122.8	3,355	4,703	3,144
Late	185.4	166.2	138.1	133.6	145.3	170.6	24,540	24,152	23,558
Summer									
Early	128.6	117.3	114.8	95.7	125.0	123.8	12,217	14,659	14,215
Late	210.7	183.8	178.6	158.5	186.7	184.3	33,052	34,308	32,916
Fall									
8 Eastern	299.9	288.5	271.0	206.8	228.0	215.7	61,884	65,788	58,453
9 Central	327.9	308.3	304.6	117.6	142.0	132.5	38,408	43,785	40,349
9 Western	277.4	337.2	333.2	188.0	217.6	199.2	52,269	73,363	66,358
Total	905.2	934.0	908.8	168.9	195.9	181.7	152,561	182,936	165,160
United States	1,481.1	1,467.0	1,392.2	155.8	181.1	174.5	229,829	265,729	242,998

1/ Preliminary.

Table 11.--Sweetpotatoes: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1949-57, annual 1958 and 1959

Region	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested								
	Average 1949-57	1958	1959 1/	Average 1949-57	1958	1959 1/	Average 1949-57	1958	1959 1/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Central Atlantic 2/	38.1	39.7	42.7	85	95	90	3,224	3,761	3,822
Lower Atlantic 3/	102.5	56.6	60.5	52	64	66	5,365	3,614	4,002
South Central 4/	194.8	154.3	155.7	50	57	62	9,778	8,750	9,615
North Central 5/	3.5	3.2	3.2	55	74	78	192	238	250
California	11.7	12.0	13.0	70	85	78	817	1,020	1,014
United States	352.9	265.8	275.1	55.5	65.4	68.0	19,516	17,383	18,703

1/ Preliminary.
2/ New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia.
3/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
4/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.
5/ Missouri and Kansas.

Annual summary, Crop Production, USDA, AMS, December 16, 1959.

Table 12.--Potatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale price at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1958, 1959 and 1960

Variety	State	Unit	Week ended					
			1958-59			1959-60		
			Nov. 15	Dec. 13	Jan. 17	Nov. 14	Dec. 12	Jan. 16
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F. o. b. shipping points								
Katahdin, unwashed	South Dearfield, Massachusetts	U. S. No. 1 100 lb. sack	---	1.35	1.35	---	2.16	2.49
Various varieties 1/	Rochester, New York, (Western and Central points)	U. S. No. 1 50 lb. sack	.81	.82	.81	1.39	1.36	1.42
Katahdin 1/	Presque Isle Maine, Aroostock	U. S. No. 1 50 lb. sack	.66	.59	.56	.97	.96	1.14
Katahdin, unwashed	Pennsylvania (Eastern points)	U. S. No. 1 50 lb. sack	.85	.80	.80	1.19	1.15	1.30
Russet Burbank 2/	Idaho Falls Upper Valley Twin Falls District	U. S. No. 1 100 lb. sack	2.16	2.09	2.27	3.15	3.39	4.26
Red McClure, washed 3/	San Luis Valley, Colorado	U. S. No. 1 100 lb. sack	1.76	1.63	1.62	2.45	2.45	2.75
Katahdin, unwashed	Benton Harbor, Michigan	U. S. No. 1 50 lb. sack	.81	.84	.81	1.27	1.27	1.32
			Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1958-59			1959-60		
			Nov. 11	Dec. 16	Jan. 13	Nov. 10	Dec. 15	Jan. 12
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Terminal Markets								
New York								
Katahdin, unwashed 4/	Long Island	U. S. No. 1 50 lb. sack	1.00	.96	.95	1.40	1.38	1.53
Russets, washed	Idaho	U. S. No. 1 50 lb. sack	2.26	2.24	2.25	2.60	2.75	3.20
Katahdin, unwashed 5/	Maine	U. S. No. 1 50 lb. sack	1.08	1.12	1.12	1.50	1.53	1.63
Chicago								
Russets	Idaho	U. S. No. 1 100 lb. sack	3.55	3.35	3.60	4.50	5.00	5.60

1/ Mostly Katahdin.
2/ 20-30 percent, 10 ounces and larger.
3/ 2 3/4 inch minimum.
4/ Some Chippewas.
5/ 2¼ inch minimum.

Weekly Summary of f.o.b. and terminal market prices, USDA, AMS, Market News reports. F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the range of daily prices.

Table 13--Sweetpotatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1958, 1959 and 1960

Item	State	Unit	Week ended					
			1958-59			1959-60		
			Nov. 15	Dec. 13	Jan. 17	Nov. 14	Dec. 12	Jan. 16
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.o.b. shipping points								
Puerto Rican, cured	S.W. Louisiana	U.S. No. 1 50 lb. crt.	4.12	3.74	3.55	3.31	3.08	2.88
Puerto Rican, cured	S.W. Louisiana	U.S. No. 2 50 lb. crt.	---	2.05	1.92	---	1.62	1.65
			Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1958-59			1959-60		
			Nov. 11	Dec. 16	Jan. 13	Nov. 10	Dec. 15	Jan. 12
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Terminal markets								
New York								
Puerto Rican	North Carolina	Bu. bskt.	4.14	4.77	4.75	3.15	3.25	3.50
Chicago								
Puerto Rican, cured	Louisiana	50 lb. crt.	---	4.50	4.25	---	3.75	3.65

Weekly Summary of f.o.b. and terminal prices, USDA, AMS, Market News reports. F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the range of daily prices.

Table 14--United States average prices received by farmers per hundredweight for important field crops, indicated periods, 1958 and 1959

Commodity	Average		1958	1959		
	Aug. 1909-July 1914	Jan. 1947-Dec. 1949	Dec. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 15	Dec. 15
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Potatoes	1.14	2.46	1.17	1.59	1.82	1.89
Sweetpotatoes	1.60	4.28	4.54	2.54	2.61	3.43
Beans, dry edible	3.37	9.92	6.70	6.61	7.21	7.41
Peas, dry field	---	4.60	5.80	3.68	3.90	4.23

Agricultural Prices, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 15.--Beans, dry, edible: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1948-57, annual 1958 and 1959 1/

States and classes	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production 2/		
	Average 1948-57	1958	1959	Average 1948-57	1958	1959	Average 1948-57	1958	1959
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Maine, New York and Michigan	586	653	609	952	1,005	1,120	5,570	6,564	6,820
Nebraska, Montana: Idaho, Wyoming: and Washington:	301	379	360	1,597	1,703	1,653	4,796	6,456	5,951
Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah	319	281	241	708	735	715	2,170	2,064	1,723
California:									
Large lima	72	66	60	1,640	1,656	1,527	1,171	1,093	916
Baby lima	46	22	24	1,624	1,618	1,717	724	356	412
Other	197	210	183	1,201	1,258	1,306	2,375	2,642	2,390
Total California	315	298	267	1,358	1,373	1,393	4,270	4,091	3,718
United States	1,521	1,611	1,477	1,113	1,190	1,233	16,804	19,175	18,212

1/ Includes beans grown for seed.
2/ Bags of 100 pounds, cleaned basis.

Table 16.--Beans, dry, edible: Production in selected areas, by major types, United States, annual 1958 and 1959

Type	Michigan		Idaho and others 1/		Colorado and others 2/		New York		California		Total	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
	1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/	
Pea (Navy)	4,949	5,612	61	107	---	---	91	59	---	---	5,101	5,778
Great Northern	---	---	1,972	2,120	---	10	---	---	---	---	1,972	2,130
Pinto	13	13	2,801	2,531	2,062	1,712	---	---	8	3	4,884	4,259
Red Kidney	106	121	23	31	1	---	1,045	623	204	179	1,379	954
Standard lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,093	916	1,093	916
Baby lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	356	412	356	412
Other varieties	158	228	1,599	1,162	28	10	175	155	2,430	2,208	4,390	3,763
Total	5,226	5,974	6,456	5,951	2,091	1,732	1,311	837	4,091	3,718	19,175	18,212

1/ Includes Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Washington.
2/ Includes Maine, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.
3/ Bags of 100 pounds, cleaned basis.

Crop Production annual summary, USDA, AMS, December 16, 1959.

Table 17.--Peas, dry field: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1948-57, annual 1958 and 1959 1/

State	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production 2/		
	Average 1948-57	1958	1959	Average 1948-57	1958	1959	Average 1948-57	1958	1959
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Minnesota	4	3	3	1,001	1,100	1,130	41	33	34
North Dakota	4	3	4	934	1,400	1,250	34	42	50
Montana	6	---	---	1,115	---	---	60	---	---
Idaho	93	77	126	1,197	1,450	1,450	1,119	1,116	1,827
Wyoming	5	---	---	1,348	---	---	64	---	---
Colorado	10	12	7	878	1,000	930	90	120	65
Washington	140	101	146	1,148	1,060	1,500	1,588	1,071	2,190
Oregon	11	7	12	934	1,400	1,450	103	98	174
California	8	1	2	1,163	1,100	1,750	93	11	35
United States	281	204	300	1,145	1,221	1,458	3,193	2,491	4,375

1/ In principal commercial producing States. Includes peas grown for seed and cannery peas harvested dry.

2/ Bags of 100 pounds, cleaned basis.

Annual summary, Crop Production, USDA, AMS, December 16, 1959.

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